

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action November 30, 2004, where the Examiner has allowed claims 6-9, 15, 18, and 19, and rejected claims 1-5, 10-14, and 16-17. By the present amendment, claims 1-5, 10-14, and 16-17 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 15 has been amended, and claim 20 has been added. Accordingly, claims 6-9, 15, 18, and 19-20 remain in the present application. Allowance of remaining claims 6-9, 15, 18, and 19-20 in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of the claims under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 10-14 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka (Patent No.: JP409016879A) in view of Ray (U.S. Patent No.: 6,192,257). Similarly, the Examiner has rejected claims 16-17 as being unpatentable over Matsuoka in view of Ray and further in view of Blunt (U.S. Patent No.: 5,651,070). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has cancelled claims 1-5, 10-14, and 16-17 without prejudice. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-5, 10-14, and 16-17 has been rendered moot. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 1-5, 10-14, and 16-17 in a continuation application.

B. Allowed claims

Claims 6-9, 15, 18, and 19 stand allowed. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement of allowance regarding claims 6-9, 15, 18, and 19. Applicant has amended 15 to correct a typographical error.

C. Added claim


Independent device claim 20 has been added. New claim 20 parallels allowed claim 6 with the exception that claim 20 recites "stimuli" instead of "sound waves." Unlike rejected claim 1, new claim 20 further recites the additional limitation of a "target compare block" consistent with allowed claim 6. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that new claim 20 should be allowed.

D. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 6-9, 15, 18, and 19-20 remaining in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted;

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